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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/559,960	12/08/2005	Michael C. Gaidis	FIS920030127US1	6525
32074 7590 07/10/2008 INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION DEPT. 18G BLDG. 300-482 2070 ROUTE 52 HOPEWELL JUNCTION, NY 12533				
EXAMINER				
GOODWIN, DAVID J				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
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07/10/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 6/9/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
2. The applicant argues that Tsang does not teach that the capping layer is self align.
3. The applicant will note that Tsang teaches a structure wherein the capping layer is aligned fig 7.
4. That Tsang does not discuss self alignment versus any other means by which an aligned structure is formed is irrelevant to the claim. The applicant has claimed the structure, as such the means by which the structure is formed does not further limit the claim. See previous office action.
5. The applicant argues that Tsang does not teach a capping layer that is co-extensive with the metal strap.
6. The applicant will note that in figure 7 Tsang teaches a capping layer that is co-extensive with the metal strap over the entire length of the capping layer.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAVID GOODWIN whose telephone number is (571)272-8451. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 9:00am through 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Loke can be reached on (571)272-1657. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Djg

/Steven Loke/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2818